



September 4, 2007

The Honorable John Conyers
Chairman, Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard Berman
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee
on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property
and Intellectual Property
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Howard Coble
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee's
Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet
and Intellectual Property
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conyers and Ranking Member Smith, Chairman Berman and Ranking Member Coble:

On behalf of the Technology Network (TechNet) - a bipartisan political network of chief executives that promotes the growth of the innovation economy - we thank you for your leadership and strongly support the bipartisan Patent Reform Act of 2007 (H.R. 1908) that the Judiciary Committee reported by voice vote in May.

TechNet strongly supports this legislation which seeks to modernize and strengthen the patent system in order to maximize U.S. innovation. It has been 55 years since our patent laws were updated and H.R. 1908 will improve and protect patent quality, restore fairness and reduce uncertainty in the patent litigation system. It will also ensure U.S. inventors are not disadvantaged by harmonizing U.S. patent law with other countries. This bill is the culmination of a detailed legislative process over the past six years including 21 hearings on patent issues and more than 150 stakeholder meetings to create compromise legislation.

The urgency for comprehensive patent reform is evidenced by the increasing amount of patent litigation and overall concerns about patent quality. In keeping with new technological advances and an expanding global community, modernization of the patent system is crucial to enhancing U.S. competitiveness at home and abroad. H.R. 1908 provides key revisions that will benefit technology and innovation within the financial services industry, media sector, energy and manufacturing arenas. Most importantly, this legislation clarifies the standard used for calculating damages so it is based on the appropriate share of the patent's contribution to the value a product, and not on the value of a whole product that has thousands of other patented components.

We thank you for your leadership and recognition of the importance of this legislation to our country's global competitiveness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lezlee Westine".

Lezlee Westine